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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: :
Peter Stouffer et al. : Group Art Unit No.: 3661
Serial No.: 09/907,744 : Examiner: Y. Beaulieu
Filed July 19, 2001 :
For: PROGRAMMABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 12, 2002 in the subject application, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and remarks and request reconsideration.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice amended) A vehicle control system, comprising:
an interface module connected to electronic input and output devices; and

a detachable feature set module for detachably coupling to said interface module,
wherein said detachable feature set module contains programming for controlling
functions of an alarm system when coupled to the interface module.

10. (Twice amended) A method of modifying functions of a vehicle control system comprising steps of:

removing a first feature set module from an alarm system; and

replacing said first feature set module with a second feature set module programmed to provide different functionality when the second feature set module is coupled in the alarm system.

Separate, marked up pages showing the changes made are enclosed.

STATUS AND SUMMARY

Claims 1- 20 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9-11, and 18-20 on the basis of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 6,028,533, to Javors. The Examiner has rejected claims 9 and 12-17 on the basis of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 6,028,533, to Javors in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,479,157, to Suman et al. Claims 1 and 10 have each been amended to more particularly point out that the relationship between the feature set module and interface module. These amendments present elements which Applicants believe were already presented in the claim, but which are made herein for the purpose of clarification. The amendments are thus non-narrowing and are not intended to change the meaning or scope of the claims.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9-11, and 18-20 on the basis of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 6,028,533, to Javors. The Office Action indicates that FIGs. 1 and 2 of Javors teach a detachable feature set module. However, FIGs. 1 and 2 merely teach a detached (i.e., remote) control unit. See element 30 in FIGs 1 and 2 of Javors. The remote control unit (element 30) of Javors is not coupled to the processor (element 40) during operation.

In contrast, in the present application the detachable feature set module contains programming that controls features of an alarm system *when coupled to the interface module*. Thus, a user may change the programming used by the interface module by replacing the feature set module with a different feature set module containing different programming. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to clarify this feature.

The claims are submitted to be allowable on the basis of the above remarks, and allowance is respectfully solicited.

REQUEST FOR STATUS OF PETITION

On March 5, 2002, Applicants filed an Amendment, Petition, and Fee to delete an erroneously-named inventor in this application. To date, Applicants have received no response to the petition. Applicants respectfully inquire about the status of the petition and request a favorable decision on its merits.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. There being no other rejections, Applicants respectfully request that the current application be allowed and passed to issue.

If the Examiner believes for any reason that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, or if the Examiner does not consider this

Amendment and Response to place the application in order for issue, I ask that the Examiner telephone me directly.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, including any fees for net addition of claims, which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 50-0436. Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary, however, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to deposit account No. 50-0436.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: January 8, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS:

10. (Twice amended) A method of modifying functions of a vehicle control system comprising steps of:

removing a first feature set module from an alarm system; and

replacing said first feature set module with a second feature set module
programmed to provide different functionality when the second feature set module is
coupled in the alarm system.